

PRESS RELEASE ON THE NEW PSYCHOLOGICAL
STRATEGY BOARD

The White House announced today the establishment of a National Psychological Strategy Board to coordinate information and related activities of all government agencies working to strengthen the world forces of democracy against Communist aggression.

The new body is composed of the Under Secretary of State, James E. Webb; the Deputy Secretary of Defense, Robert A. Lovett; and the Director of Central Intelligence, General Walter Bedell Smith. In addition, representatives of other agencies may be called in to sit with the Board.

Simultaneously, it was announced that () has been designated by the President as the principal executive official of the Board.

Mr. () duties will be to assist the Board by reviewing all government activities in the field of psychological strategy and preparing recommendations to strengthen and coordinate these activities. He will also see that decisions of the Board are carried out. He will have the title of Director, and his staff will be contributed by the Departments of State and Defense and the Central Intelligence Agency.

While the Psychological Strategy Board will insure that all departments and agencies speak with one voice, existing agencies will be used in actual execution of its decisions. Information and related activities

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activities will remain a military responsibility in occupied areas and theaters of military operations, and elsewhere a responsibility of the State Department.

The interdepartmental psychological strategy board under the chairmanship of Assistant Secretary of State Edward A. Barrett, which has been in existence for approximately a year, will continue to coordinate the execution of U.S. foreign information programs. It will be known hereafter as the Information Strategy Committee. This organization includes representatives from the Department of Defense, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Central Intelligence Agency, and the Economic Cooperation Administration.

The new Board and its Director will concentrate on government-wide policy which has implications for U.S. long-range psychological efforts. It will thus serve as a strategic general staff and will be in a position to provide guidance beyond that which has been furnished hitherto by agencies which have been principally concerned with day-to-day operations. It will also have authority to call upon private organizations and individuals throughout the country for assistance.

One of the main tasks of the Psychological Strategy Board will be to see that all government resources are used to keep alive democratic sentiments behind the Iron Curtain. Recent information has indicated that the Soviet leaders are having increasing difficulties in controlling the restive peoples in Eastern Europe and in the Soviet Union itself. With the development of new technical instruments for bringing truthful information behind the Iron Curtain this counterbalance to Soviet warlike ambitions will be maintained and